

I CLAIM:

1. A method for videoconferencing using Internet Protocol (IP), the
method comprising the steps of:
installing a videoconferencing switch at an access point to an IP network;
5 at the switch, registering a plurality of subscribers for videoconferencing
services, each subscriber including a plurality of endpoints;
receiving subscriber-specific settings to be applied to multiple
videoconferencing calls from the plurality of endpoints associated with each subscriber;
storing the subscriber-specific settings at a location accessible to the switch;
10 and
configuring the switch to connect calls from the plurality of endpoints at
each subscriber based on the corresponding subscriber-specific settings.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein subscriber-specific settings include
15 policies selected from the group consisting of outbound/inbound calling privileges,
encryption policies, bandwidth policies, priority among users policies, participation
privileges, inbound/outbound calling restrictions, time-of-day restrictions, audio or video
restrictions.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein subscriber-specific settings include
firewall settings.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein subscriber-specific settings include network address translation (NAT) settings.

5. A method for use in videoconferencing, the method comprising:

5 installing a video services switch on a service provider network at an access point configured to enable multiple enterprise subscribers to access a global packet-switched computer network to exchange data, including videoconferencing data and non-videoconferencing data, the video services switch being configured to process videoconferencing data from multiple enterprise subscribers;

10 at the video services switch, receiving a request for a videoconferencing call from an origination endpoint of one of the multiple enterprise subscribers;

connecting the videoconferencing call to a destination endpoint, the videoconferencing call having associated videoconferencing data; and

15 securing the videoconferencing call based on subscriber-specific security settings.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein each enterprise subscriber includes an enterprise gateway positioned on the network between the access point and the origination endpoint, the method further comprising:

5 routing videoconferencing data from the enterprise gateway to video services switch; and
routing non-videoconferencing data from the enterprise gateway around the video services switch

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the videoconferencing data is routed to the video services switch via a direct network connection from an enterprise router to the video services switch.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the video conferencing data is routed to the video services service switch through an access point edge router.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein a firewall exists between the enterprise gateway and the video conferencing data is passed the firewall unexamined.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the video conferencing data routed through the firewall is encrypted.

11. The method of claim 10, where the encryption is achieved using the IPSec protocols.

12. The method of claim 6, where the videoconferencing data is routed
5 to the switch via a DSL network.

13. The method of claim 12, where the videoconferencing data is routed to the switch via PVC opened on the DSL network.

14. The method of claim 5, wherein the call is connected according to H.323 or SIP protocols.

15. The method of claim 5, wherein the security settings include firewall settings.

16. The method of claim 5, wherein the security settings includes NAT settings.

17. The method of claim 5, wherein subscriber-specific settings include policies selected from the group consisting of outbound/inbound calling privileges, encryption policies, bandwidth policies, priority among users policies, participation privileges, inbound/outbound calling restrictions, time-of-day restrictions, audio or
5 video restrictions.

18. A video services switch, comprising:
a control plane module configured to receive subscriber-specific
videoconferencing call settings for each of a plurality of video services subscribers, the
10 videoconferencing call settings being for multiple calls placed from each video services subscriber;
a data plane module configured to receive videoconferencing data streams
from multiple subscribers and manage these videoconferencing data streams according to
the subscriber-specific videoconferencing call settings for each subscriber.

19. A system for use in videoconferencing, the system including:

a service provider network configured to enable users of multiple enterprise subscriber networks to transfer data a global computer network, the service provider network having an access point;

5 a videoconferencing services switch located on the access point of the service provider network, the videoconferencing services switch being configured to process videoconferencing calls from terminals on each of the multiple subscriber networks, based on subscriber-specific settings.

20. A system for use in videoconferencing, the system including:

a service provider network configured to enable users of multiple enterprise subscriber networks to transfer data a global computer network, the service provider network having an access point;

15 a videoconferencing services switch located on the access point of the service provider network, the videoconferencing services switch being configured to act as a firewall services for videoconferencing data originating configured to process videoconferencing calls from terminals on each of the multiple subscriber networks, based on subscriber-specific settings.

20